



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 25, 2008

**MAYOR JERRY SANDERS  
NEWS RELEASE**

**MAYOR SANDERS ANNOUNCES WATER REBATE FOR  
‘SMART CONTROLLER’ USERS**

***Irrigation Controller Helps San Diegans Get “Smart” by Saving Water***

In his continuing efforts to promote the reduction of water usage by all San Diegans, Mayor Jerry Sanders and the City of San Diego Water Department have announced an innovative and effective way to take the guess-work out of watering your lawn—complete with a substantial rebate incentive. The Water Department is working in conjunction with the San Diego County Water Authority to conduct a pilot study on the use of Smart Controllers—a weather-based irrigation system that waters your lawn and garden in response to weather conditions, based on historical data and weather sensors. It then adjusts the irrigation schedule accordingly.

To encourage residents to reduce water usage, a rebate for up to \$350 is being offered for the purchase of a qualifying controller. Depending on the price of the model, this may also cover some or all of the cost of installation by a certified installer if the homeowner prefers to have it professionally installed.

Smart Controllers help keep plants healthier by reducing damage caused by over-watering. To determine the best watering method for a specific lawn and garden, these systems monitor several different variables including rain, temperature, humidity, soil moisture, plant type, and the amount of time it takes for water to evaporate. The Smart Controller can be programmed to deliver water according to specific landscaping requirements, reducing overall water usage by up to 20 percent.

Any residential, City of San Diego Water Department customer with 2,000 square-feet of in-ground irrigated landscape is eligible for the program. Participants are able to select their equipment (check irrigation supply warehouses, or online). Rebates are limited, however, and the program ends on June 30, 2008. Prior to purchase, residential customers will receive a free Residential Water Survey at their home. Interested customers should contact the City of San Diego Water Department at (619) 570-1999, or go to the Department web site <http://www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation> to read about requirements.

A similar program is offered to commercial and multi-family sites. Commercial/multi-family customers may receive \$25.00 per station toward the purchase of a Smart controller. Controllers must be from the approved list and there are some restrictions regarding installation. For information on the Commercial, Multi-family Smart Controller Program call toll-free: (800) 986-4538

### **MAYOR CONTINUES TO PROMOTE THE 20-GALLON CHALLENGE**

As part of a region-wide effort to step up voluntary water conservation, Mayor Sanders, in conjunction with the San Diego County Water Authority, has issued a 20-Gallon Challenge to all San Diegans. Water users are each being asked to conserve 20 gallons a day of water, our most precious resource. The Smart Controller can go a long way toward helping San Diegans meet the 20-Gallon Challenge.

For more information about the 20-Gallon Challenge, visit the Water Department's Water Conservation website at <http://www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation>

### **CITY OFFERS RESIDENTS WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS**

The City of San Diego Water Department has a range of programs to help residents and business owners in San Diego conserve water. From the Residential Water Survey Program to the Commercial Landscape Survey Program, the experts at the City's Water Department are ready to help.

The Department also has a whole range of tips and ideas on how you can save water. To read the tips and find out more about the programs please visit <http://www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation>.

So while rain may be falling now, spring and summer are just around the corner. It's important for you to know how much water your garden and landscape need during these sometimes wet, sometimes dry months, as well as when you should adjust your automatic irrigation system. The goal for all San Diegans is to make sure we're not over-watering.